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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/568,413	02/14/2006	Shinichi Yasuda	284140US3PCT	7590
22850	7590	07/10/2009		
OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			EXAMINER EDWARDS, LAURA ESTELLE	
			ART UNIT 1792	PAPER NUMBER
			NOTIFICATION DATE 07/10/2009	DELIVERY MODE ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/568,413	Applicant(s) YASUDA ET AL.	
	Examiner Laura Edwards	Art Unit 1792	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 14 February 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>20060214</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

35 USC § 112 Sixth Paragraph

Acknowledgement is made of claims 1 and 2 which include means plus function limitation(s) which have been treated under 35 U.S.C. 112, sixth paragraph.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over ASPA (Admitted State of the Prior Art) which is Japanese Patent No. 2002-192022 (Kimiyooshi) in view of Tomiaki (Japanese Patent No. 11-123348).

The ASPA (instant spec., pg. 1-4, line 11) which is Japanese Patent No. '022 or Kimiyooshi sets forth the structural detailing as claimed of a rotary atomizing head comprising a rotary atomizing head for spraying supplied paint, an air motor coupled with said rotary atomizing head and rotated by a supply of air, a speed sensor adapted to detect rotational speed of said air motor, an air source for supplying an air to said air

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motor, an electropneumatic converter adapted to adjust an air pressure supplied from said air source according to an electrical quantity, and a controller adapted to control an electrical quantity to be controller for controlling an electrical quantity to be output to the electropneumatic converter on the basis of detected rotational speed and a desired target rotational speed. The ASPA/Kimiyoshi are silent concerning the controller being programmed to provide an appropriate electrical quantity value so that parameters of paint discharge rate along with said target rotational speed, and driving of the air motor remain steady/constant to provide for uniform spray application. Tomiaki provides for use of an automatic feedback controller with data storage which enables a user to control parameters such as coating flow rate (i.e., paint discharge rate), number of rotation (i.e., rotational speed), valving control, and so forth so based on desired settings so as to drive the air motor at a constant rate to provide for uniform spray application despite fluctuations in any such parameters (see abstract). One of ordinary skill in the art would readily appreciate incorporating into the apparatus of the ASPA/Kimiyoshi, the feedback control features of Tomiaki so as to appropriately and automatically control parameters in the coating process to provide for enhanced uniformity in coating of a substrate/article.

With respect to claims 2-6, adaptation or programming of the controller to regulate parameters mentioned above and/or parts of the apparatus so as to provide for uniformity in coating of a substrate/article is deemed to be within the purview of one skilled in the art.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The following patents disclose spraying systems including feedback controllers or microprocessors with appropriate accessories to provide for programmable control of the spraying system and its parts: Cocks (US 4593360) and Estelle (US 6849130).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Laura Edwards whose telephone number is (571) 272-1227. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Wednesday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nadine Norton can be reached on (571) 272-1465. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Laura Edwards/
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1792

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July 1, 2009